

Message Text

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43

ORIGIN PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 MC-02 EB-07 TRSE-00

COME-00 L-03 SS-15 SP-02 /047 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ISP:GPOWERS
APPROVED BY PM/ISP:CFLOWERREE
EUR/RPM:ROBINSON (DRAFT)
EUR/WE:JSWIHART (DRAFT)
PM:GOODBY

----- 068792

P R 101642Z OCT 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
INFO SECDEF WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, MMOL

SUBJECT: M-60 TANK

1. AT A MEETING WITH PM DEPUTY DIRECTOR GOODBY ON OCTOBER 9 ITALIAN EMBASSY MINISTER COUSELOR (COMMERCIAL) SERAFINI PRESENTED AN AIDE-MEMOIRE REQUESTING DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE IN MAKING CASE FOR SELECTING TWO ITALIAN COMPANIES TO PROVIDE M-60 TANK COMPONENTS TO CHRYSLER FOR THE US ARMY'S TANK BUILDING PROGRAM. HE INDICATED THAT THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR HAD PRESENTED A DEMARCHE TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS ELLSWORTH EARLIER AND THAT GOI INTENDS TO ALSO APPEAL TO AMBASSADOR VOLPE. BREDAS HAS SUBMITTED A BID TO SUBCONTRACT 200 TANK HULL AND TURRET CASTINGS AND CHRYSLER IS EXPECTED TO AWARD A CONTRACT BETWEEN 15 AND 20 OCTOBER. SERAFINI INDICATED THAT THE GOI IS ALSO EXPECTING TENDERS FOR AN ADDITIONAL 300 CASTINGS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. FYI: DEPARTMENT'S CON-

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TACTS WITH DEFENSE, HOWEVER, REVEAL NO SUCH PLAN. END FYI

2. THE SECOND ITALIAN COMPANY, OTTICO MECCANICA ITALIANA (OMI) MANUFACTURES OPTICAL EQUIPMENT AND WANTS A PART OF THE M-60/M-48 MODERNIZATION PROGRAM. THE GOI IS ASKING THAT THE "BUY AMERICA ACT" BE WAIVED IN ORDER TO AVOID THE 25 IMPORT DUTY WHICH WO;LD OTHERWISE JEOPARDIZE ITALIAN COMPETITIVENESS.

3. THE GOI PLEA IS KEYED TO CONTINUED DEFENSE COOPERATION BETWEEN US AND ITALY AND THE CURRENT DEPRESSED CONDITION OF THE ITALIAN ECONOMY.

4. DEPARTMENT WILL DISCUSS THE GOI'S CONCERNS WITH APPROPRIATE DOD OFFICES. FYI: BEDA IS ONE OF FOUR BIDDERS CONSIDERED QUALIFIED BY DOD TO PRODUCE THE TANK CASTINGS, HOWEVER CHRYSLER AS THE PRIME CONTRACTOR WILL MAKE FINAL SELECTION. END FYI KISSINGER

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